

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A method of coding information
2 on articles, ~~characterized in that for coding~~ the method comprising
3 the step of
4 writing on an object a code containing the information in
5 a fluorescent dyestuff is used that does not fluoresce in a visible
6 spectral range of 400 to 700 nm.

1 2. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 1,
2 characterized in that a fluorescent dyestuff ~~[[ifs]]~~ is used which
3 fluoresces within 1 to 200 nanoseconds following excitation with
4 energy-rich light.

3. (canceled)

1 4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that ~~the following compounds,~~ the fluorescent
3 dyestuff is pyrene compounds, uranine, quinine, fluorescein,
4 rhodamine, acridine orange, tetracycline, or porphyrine ~~is used.~~

1 5. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, characterized in that different fluorescent dyestuffs are used
3 simultaneously.

1 6. (currently amended) The method according to claim
2 [[1]] 5, characterized in that [[with]] the ~~simultaneous use of~~
3 different fluorescent dyestuffs, ~~these~~ differ only slightly in
4 absorption characteristics but differ significantly in emission
5 characteristics.

1 7. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, characterized in that black-white bar codes and fluorescent
3 dyestuffs are used for the coding of information.

1 8. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, characterized in that the fluorescent dyestuff is applied in a
3 diffused pattern to the article.

1 9. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, characterized in that the fluorescent dyestuff is applied in the
3 form of a bar code to the article.

1 10. (previously presented) The method according to
2 claim 1, characterized in that the fluorescent dyestuff is applied
3 by a printing process to the article.

11. (canceled)

1 12. (currently amended) The method according to claim
2 1, characterized in that the object is written on by incorporating

3 ~~the~~ fluorescent dyestuff ~~is introduced into the object~~ during the
4 manufacturing process of the material of the ~~article and~~
5 ~~characterizes it~~ object.

1 13. (currently amended) A device for evaluating coded
2 information which as been coded by means of a fluorescent dyestuff,
3 comprising

4 a detection chamber having inner surfaces;
5 ~~at least one~~ a plurality light sources distributed over
6 all of the inner surfaces, and at least one

7 a plurality detectors distributed over all of the inner
8 surfaces, and ~~characterized in that the light source and detector~~
9 ~~are arranged in a reading head or a detection chamber and the~~
10 ~~device includes~~

11 means for controlling ~~[[the]]~~ light emission of the
12 sources.

1 14. (original) The device according to claim 13,
2 characterized in that the detection chamber is shielded against
3 foreign light.

15. (canceled)

1 16. (previously presented) The device according to
2 claim 13, characterized in that the inner surfaces of the detection

3 chamber are coated with reflecting color or are fabricated from
4 reflected material.

17 and 18. (canceled)

1 19. (currently amended) The device according to claim
2 13, characterized in that the light sources emit pulses that are
3 synchronized in time with the detector.

1 20. (previously presented) The device according to
2 claim 13, characterized in that the light sources have a spectrum
3 between 200 to 1800 nm.

1 21. (previously presented) The method of evaluating
2 coded information which has been coded by means of a method
3 according to claim 1.

1 22. (new) A device for reading a code applied to an
2 object in accordance with the method of claim 1, the device
3 comprising:

4 a light source for irradiating the object and causing it
5 to fluoresce in a nonvisible light spectrum, and

6 a light detector capable of seeing fluoresced light in
7 the nonvisible light spectrum and reading the code.